

**GALLATIN LOCAL WATER QUALITY DISTRICT
MINUTES
March 2, 2006**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hunt	Ron Thein
Kathy Gallagher	Joe Skinner
Sherwin Leep	
Tim Ford	

GLWQD EMPLOYEES/STAFF

Alan English, Manager
Tammy Crone, Water Quality Specialist
Tawnya Storm, Administrative Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED

Ell Bennett
Rich Mikelson

PUBLIC AND GUESTS

Tim Roark, Environmental Health
Bill Murdock, County Commissioner

Sherwin Leep called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM.

I. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 5, 2006 MINUTES

Kathy made a motion to approve the January 5, 2006 minutes as drafted. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

ROLL CALL

Sherwin Leep – For
Bill Hunt – For
Joe Skinner – For
Tim Ford – For

Ron Thein - For
Kathy Gallagher - For
Rich Mikelson - Excused
Ell Bennett - Excused

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

III. STAFF UPDATE

Alan reviewed staff update and summarized the District's activities for the previous 2 months.

Alan informed the board that the GLWQD has been researching the purchase of a high volume printer for producing our educational literature. Purchase of this printer was approved in the FY 2006 budget. However, the warranty for the printer the district is interested in purchasing is approximately 50% of the cost of the printer itself, so Alan is trying to work out an agreement with the ITS department in hopes for not having to purchase that warranty. Commissioner Skinner asked Alan if we are under the same rules with ITS as the other departments since we are our own district. Alan argues that we aren't, but it is unclear as to what say the ITS department has over our decisions regarding the purchase of office equipment. Alan will check with Ed to see if in fact we are under the same rules as the other county departments when it comes to these issues.

Tim Ford mentioned that everyone involved in the microbial source tracking project is eager to begin. MSU has a fully funded grad student ready to get going, but they are still finding ways to fund the rest of the project. As soon as they come up with some money to do the researching, the project will get under way.

Sherwin asked Commissioner Skinner if installing monitoring wells in the upcoming subdivisions like the developers did in Cobblestone was going to be the norm from here on out. Commissioner Skinner replied that he thinks it's a good idea, but is not sure what to do if there is contamination and where to go from there.

IV. UPDATE ON INCLUSION OF BIG SKY IN THE DISTRICT

Alan is waiting to hear back from Katie Alvin regarding the number of fee assessed units in Big Sky and how much money that will be generating. Alan is also waiting to hear back from the Madison County commissioners. No further update on this agenda item so far.

V. MONITORING WELL NETWORK PROJECT UPDATE

Alan informed the board that he had obtained an easement for the Wheatland Hills Subdivision and had paid the filing fee to have it recorded. Everything is a go for this drill site, but the drillers are waiting for better drilling conditions.

The well at Dry Creek School has been completed.

Alan met with Ell Bennett and Jerry Pease (Manhattan School Superintendent) to inquire about putting a well on Manhattan School property. Jerry was not fond of this idea, but recommended the park across the street. Alan met with the Manhattan Parks board about drilling a monitoring well at the park, and they approved the plan. Alan also got the town council to agree to the plan, so it is a go. There is no need for an easement. The drilling at the park began on March 2nd.

The driller, Kevin Haggerty, informed Alan that he has some parcels of land around Bozeman that would be good places for monitoring wells. Alan is interested in this idea, so he will be getting the agreement to Kevin soon for him to sign.

Alan informed the board that he had decided to extend the contract with the DNRC until the end of April to ensure completion of all the monitoring wells.

As far as the monitoring well network budget is concerned, Alan stated that the Cherry River fishing access site ended up costing \$300.00 more than budgeted. He informed the board that this should not be a problem.

The GLWQD is getting charged a flat rate of \$66.00 a foot. Alan mentioned that the Dry Creek School well should end up costing around \$4000.00.

Alan and Kevin Haggerty agreed to cap a well at the gravel pit as a courtesy for not having to file an easement for this well location.

Tim Ford was curious as to whether or not vandalism played a role when wells were placed on public property. Alan said the wells don't draw too much attention and that he is not worried about this becoming a problem.

VI. COMPUTER RECYCLING EVENT DISCUSSION

Tammy informed the board that several folks have been calling the GLWQD asking about whether or not the district is planning to hold another computer recycling event. The auditor's office has also mentioned having several computers to dispose of and is wondering how best to go about this.

The cost of our last computer recycling event in 2004 was \$28,000. It will cost anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to hold another event. Tammy briefly went over three different options with three different companies for disposing of the waste. She is still researching the best fit for our needs and will know more at the next board meeting.

Tim mentioned partnering with MSU and making the event a joint effort. Tammy and Alan agreed that this is a possibility, as well as also partnering with the county, and will be looking into this idea more thoroughly.

The board members agreed that this is a very important community event for several reasons, and urged Tammy to keep researching our options and to work out the details.

VII. RETREAT PLANNING

Alan confirmed the date of the retreat being Wednesday, April 26th. He proposed the meeting start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 or 3:00. Alan talked about staff's ideas on structuring the retreat. He'd like to see the morning portion of the meeting covering the district's creation, previous work plans, and the FY 2006-2010 work plan. After lunch, which will be provided, we tentatively scheduled talking about the best ways for the district to move forward, the Big Sky issue, how the GLWQD wants to be involved in subdivision review, staffing priorities, office space, storm water, and creating a database to input all of our water data into.

Kathy mentioned taking the entire morning to go over the current 5 year work plan. She would like to see the retreat not necessarily consist of presentations by the GLWQD, but rather the GLWQD stating our work plans and talking about our priorities and goals with the board. Kathy also suggested talking about how to handle community requests for water assessment.

Tim agrees with Kathy. He'd really like to see the board become more interactive and participate as much as possible during the retreat.

Alan informed the board that he will prepare a document on the district's accomplishments and get copies to the board before the retreat. He also mentioned that Tawnya is putting together new binders with updated information for all the board members, which will also be distributed

to each member before the retreat.

VIII. SCIENCE LITERACY GRANT APPLICATION

Tammy brought the board up to speed on the status of the Science Literacy Grant application. She and Sue Higgins made some changes to the initial grant application that didn't get funded, and are resubmitting it in mid-March. She briefly spoke of the purpose of this grant being to bring the scientific minds and the decision maker minds together regarding water related issues. Tammy and Sue are still trying to decide if the sponsor for the grant should be the GLWQD or the Water Center. The board happily supports the grant application and would like to see Tammy and Sue move forward.

Kathy motioned to support the grant. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

ROLL CALL

Sherwin Leep - For
Bill Hunt – For
Joe Skinner – For
Tim Ford – For

Ron Thein - For
Kathy Gallagher - For
Rich Mikelson - Excused
Ell Bennett – Excused

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Skinner informed the GLWQD staff that they'll have to be out of the courthouse and into their new office space by June 30th. He explained that the GLWQD is the only district that rents space from the county. The county needs office space on the 3rd floor of the courthouse for the CEO that will be getting hired in the near future. Joe went on to explain that the GLWQD doesn't really fit in with the 3rd floor county government, and that is how the decision to make the district find office space elsewhere came about.

Three options that Commissioner Skinner mentioned were: 1. to move anywhere as a separate district 2. check out office space at the Martel Bldg 3. join the extension office in Belgrade

Alan did inform Commissioner Skinner that the GLWQD did work closely with other departments in the courthouse and that it is unfortunate to have to find space elsewhere. Alan informed the board that the district will still need to be on the county system and able to use the ITS department. He also mentioned that it would make a lot of sense to have the GLWQD office in the same building as Environmental Health, as these departments work closely together. Commissioner Skinner said that there are plans for Environmental Health and City/County Health to be in the Martel building in the future. Alan agreed to check out the office space available in the Martel building.

Sherwin referred back to the January minutes and asked Alan if he had met with Tim Roark and Tim Ford yet about developing a work plan for the Four Corners area. Alan replied that he had drafted a work plan and Tim Roark presented it at the Board of Health meeting. Alan plans to get out into the Gateway area in early May to do some water quality testing. Alan mentioned that the people in the Gateway community will have the opportunity at the meetings to sign up to get their well water tested.

Sherwin referred back to the January minutes again and inquired about the BOH policies that Kathy had requested. Tim Roark gave Alan a copy of basically a proposal of hierarchy when it comes to community wells and sewer systems. Apparently, what Kathy was hoping to see was Missoula and Helena's BOH policies when it came to water related issues. Alan will look into getting this information in time for the retreat.

X. AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING

Monitoring well network project update
Office space
Discussion on subdivision review

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherwin Leep, Chair

Date

Joe Skinner, Secretary

Date

Alan English, District Manager

Date